

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Applicants have amended the above-identified application to conform the specification to United States patent prosecution practice. Applicants have amended the claims by canceling claims 1-25 and adding new claims 26-56. Consideration of this application in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

II. Amendments of the Specification

Applicants have amended the specification by submitting a substitute specification, attached hereto at Appendix 1, under 37 C.F.R. 1.77(b)(3). A marked-up version of the amended specification showing changes relative to the currently filed specification is provided at Appendix 2.

Applicants have added paragraph numbering to the specification to facilitate the identification of text therein.

Applicants have added the heading "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" at page 1 of the specification, before the first paragraph, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.77(b)(2).

Immediately after the new heading "Cross-Reference to Related Applications," applicants have added a statement that this application is a continuation of copending U.S. Patent Application no. 09/833,032, filed April 11, 2001, which is a continuation of PCT International Application No. PCT/EP00/07615, filed August 5, 2000, both of which are incorporated by reference in this application. (See Marked-Up Version of the Specification, Para. No. 1.)

Applicants have added the heading "Background of the Invention" immediately before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.77(b)(5). (See Marked-Up Version of the Specification, Para. No. 2.)

Applicants have replaced a statement that "[t]he invention relates to a light metal cylinder crankcase for combustion engines according to the generic term of claim 1" at page 1, lines 6-7 with language from claim 1 in order to conform the specification to U.S. patent prosecution practice MPEP 608.01(1) ("In establishing a disclosure, applicant may rely not only on the description and drawings as filed but also on the original claims if their content justifies it"). (See Marked-Up Version of the Specification, Para. No. 2.)

Applicants have added the heading "Brief Summary of the Invention" immediately before the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 30, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.77(b)(6). (See Marked-Up Version of the Specification, immediately before Para. No. 8.)

Applicants have replaced references to claims 1-25 at page 2, line 30 to page 3, line 7 with language from the respective claims in order to conform the specification to U.S. patent prosecution practice MPEP 608.01(1). (See Marked-Up Version of the Specification, Para. No. 9.)

Applicants have added the heading "Detailed Description of the Invention" immediately before the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 13, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.77(b)(8). (See Marked-Up Version of the Specification, immediately before Para. No. 10.)

Applicants have amended the specification to correct minor typographical and grammatical errors and minor clerical details at the following locations:

Page 3, line 11	Page 5, line 25
Page 5, lines 20-21	Page 8, lines 1-2
Page 5, line 31	Page 8, line 12
Page 6, line 13	Page 8, line 25
Page 12, line 1	Page 14, line 3
Page 12, line 15	Page 14, line 17

The substitute specification includes no new matter.

III. Amendments to the Claims

Applicants have amended the claims by canceling claims 1-25 and replacing them with claims 26-56 to eliminate improper multiple dependent claims, to conform the claims to U.S. patent prosecution practice, and to select claimed embodiments for prosecution at this time. Support for new claims 26-56 is found in the specification. Support for new claims 26-56 is also found in claims 1-25, as summarized in the following table.

New Claim	Supporting Claim
26	1
27	2
28	3
29	4
30	5

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New Claim	Supporting Claim
31	6
32	7
33	8
34	9
35	10
36	11
37	11
38	12
39	14
40	13
41	14
42	15
43	16
44	18
45	19
46	17
47	18
48	19
49	20
50	20
51	20
52	21
53	22
54	23
55	24
56	25

The new claims include no new matter.

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Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of canceled claims 1-25, including any embodiments originally defined by improper multiple dependent claims, in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

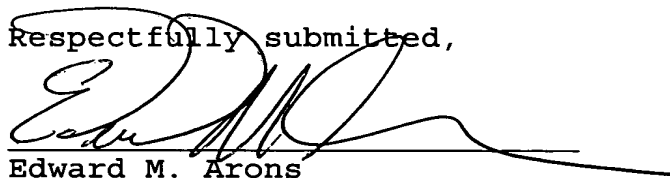
IV. Amendments to the Abstract

Applicants have added paragraph numbering to the abstract to facilitate the identification of text therein.

V. Conclusion

Applicants have amended the specification and abstract and have amended the claims by canceling claims 1-25 and replacing them with new claims 26-56. In view of the amendments of the claims and the foregoing Remarks, applicants respectfully submit that claims 26-56 are patentable and that this application is in condition for allowance. Allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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